

Thankful for the Journey

In this season of thanksgiving and celebration of Christ’s birth, I find my heart filled with gratitude as I reflect on the trail of blessings and adventures that the Lord has placed in my path as I chose to follow Him.

25 Years and Counting

It was twenty-five years ago next month that I left my home in Canada to answer the Lord’s call on my life to live and serve among His people in Haiti. Those five years were filled with interesting encounters, new adventures and blessings. I smile remembering the first.

Moving to Haiti in January 1984 with all my earthly possessions in two suitcases, I stopped in Florida at the American office of the ministry I was to serve. The co-founder’s wife came to pick me up at the airport. After she greeted me, I followed her to the parking lot, lugging these two large pieces of luggage. For the next two hours, we paced the parking lot, back and forth looking for her blue station wagon. “I knew this might happen,” she said, showing me the paper she held in her hand. “That’s why I wrote it down.” Suddenly, she stopped by a small truck we had passed by many times and declared, “Oh, that’s right! I was driving this white pick-up.” And so my adventure began.

The Early Days

In those first years of living in Haiti, I recall walking the streets with my Haitian friends, eager to learn Creole as I taught English. My job with the ministry was to use my accounting skills. Other tasks were soon added including delivering food up to the mountain schools, tour guide and even being a fill-in marriage counselor. The mission

cook had instigated a counseling session for her daughter and boyfriend. When the counselor failed to show up, I was called in to do the job. To make a long story short, they chose not to get married!

Walking by Faith

I remember the contrasts in Haiti of laughter and pain. During those five years, I can recall the joy of being so aware of God’s presence. Other times, the stark poverty and injustice kept me on my knees in tears. The last year was particularly difficult. It was only by God’s grace that I was able to complete my commitment.

As I left Haiti, God made available a healing place

at a ministry in Colorado. As I worked in the soil as a gardener, my soul was restored. As healing was given, once again I heard His call to join friends I had made in Haiti to serve among the poor in an urban ministry in Raleigh.

A Bend in the Road

This new path offered opportunities for more adventures and blessing for the next 16 years. My

accounting skills were needed and I also developed a mentor program and thrift store.

One fall, I remember coming home from Canada to find that the

ministry had placed a homeless family in my residence. With the family’s circumstances not changing fast enough, I was the one who needed to find other accommodations for quite a few weeks.

Within this urban ministry, a Haiti outreach was developed, in which I led mission teams that included neighbors living in public housing. I remember friends who travelled to Haiti thinking they were poor – yet returned eager to contribute as well. This outreach grew to where it spun off to be its own entity in January 2006. So, HHH was birthed. Seeing and experiencing servant leadership and the practices of community development with the urban ministry has proven a real blessing as we partner with friends in Haiti – the



exact relationships that were established during those most difficult days in Haiti.

Walking Together

The call to serve the Lord has been an exciting and challenging one and, over the years, friends expressed their desire for me to enjoy this journey with a special companion. So began their attempts “to find me a wife”. One such friend became convinced that if I *would* ever marry, it would be to an Avon lady because *she* would come knocking on my door.

However, the most exciting adventure and blessing in this journey was meeting this attractive young lady on one of my trips to Haiti. What a blessing to find a life’s partner with a similar zeal and passion for ministry. Now we have the privilege of serving together with our three youngsters who keep

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ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

Oh give thanks unto the
LORD!

A Haiti Herald, December 2008

Thankful for the Journey *(Continued from front)*

being immersed in 'Haitian' activities and dialogue.

The Adventure Continues

My heart is filled with gratitude for the Lord's leading and His blessings over all these years.

What a wonderful journey it has been. What an adventure, as I have

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been given the opportunity to mentor, love and encourage this next generation of Haitian leaders. I continue to stand in awe as God works among His people as we share, work, partner and learn together as we follow our awesome Creator.

Many sincere thanks to so many of you who have prayed, encouraged and shared of your resources along



this wonderful journey. You are a blessing.

Stan Wiebe, Director of HHH

Giving Thanks for 2008!

- What a blessing it was to have three **mission groups** travel to Haiti this year! Areas of service included: Staff training at the children's home on *Group Home Discipline*, a Teachers' seminar on *Integrity in the Workplace*, a Pastor/Leader conference on *The Mission of the Church*, a youth rally and Bible Camp assistance and participation.
- Most folks in our communities **survived the hurricanes** and are recovering, grateful for the assistance they are receiving!
- Land is purchased and **home construction** will begin soon in Sous Raille for families who lost their homes.
- The **churches** are growing and believers are maturing in their

walk with the Lord.

- Tarasse primary school is happy to report that **31 out of 34** Grade 6 students past their government exams.
- The **expanded vocational school** successfully completed its first school year in July.
- Five **new children** moved into the children's home, three **youth graduated** and our third youth is attending **university**.
- How grateful we are for the many individuals and churches in America who **prayed, sponsored, donated and encouraged** our friends in Haiti this past year!

Please Pray For ...

- The churches and leaders to be **discerning and effective** during this crisis recovery time.

- That many more of our students will come to personally know the **Prince of Peace** during this Christmas season.

Upcoming Events

- December 2-8, 2008 - An **Indiana group** plans to do eye exams and assist with girl's home renovations.
- January 5, 2009 - 7:30 PM **Monthly prayer meeting** held at the Wiebes. Please join us the 1st Monday night of each month.
- Mid-January 2009 - A **Pastors & Leaders conference** will be led by a team from Christ Covenant Church in Raleigh.
- Mid-March 2009 - **HHH Group to Haiti** - Let us know if you are interested in joining this team.

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